

# CONNECT



Crab apple blossom and fruit - Spring is here

You are warmly invited to join us in the  
**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Sunday 25th May 2025**

**All church services held weekly:**  
**See page 24 for details of where and when each service will be held**  
**at Aberlady and/or Gullane Church.**

**All are welcome**



MINISTER
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Apr 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dear Friends,  
Happy Easter to you all!  
Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!

After a slow start to the year and a winter that seemed never to come to an end, we have been experiencing some warmer weather recently. A late Easter always makes the start of the year seem longer and Easter Sunday won't be as late in the year again until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2038. People often ask me why the date of Easter changes each year. It is because it is calculated by finding the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on, or after, the spring equinox, which is generally considered to be March 21. In simpler terms, it's the first Sunday after the first full moon after the beginning of spring. So spring is definitely here, and summer seems to be just around the corner!

Dates are important to us at the moment especially for those who are planning their summer holidays. Dates are also becoming quite important to us in our church life as well, as, at the moment, we are making changes to some of our worship dates and times. I know I can hear the groans of despair. It is already difficult to remember when and where the joint service is going to be and now, we are going to have two joint services a month, one at the beginning and one at the end of each month.

One positive thing though is that the times will be the same as our usual service times. So all joint services, apart from the joint Christmas Day service at Gullane (which will stay at 10.30am to give the children time to open their presents) will be 9.45am at Gullane and 11.15am at Aberlady.

This will allow us to come together and worship as one church more frequently. It means that all our celebrations of Holy Communion will be occasions where we will join together as one church family to remember our risen Saviour and share in his special feast. It will mean that baptisms and the Annual Stated meeting can all be arranged for this new joint service date at the end of the month.

It will also help us to support the JAM Club as Rachel steps back from her role as Sunday School Convenor and JAM Club Leader (although she has agreed to continue organising the craft afternoons). This is a role that she has held and carried out excellently for a long time and we thank her for all her dedication and hard work. She has been a part of the lives of so many young people over the years teaching them all about Jesus, and usually doing so with a lot of fun, laughter and enjoyment.

It has been difficult to find somebody who is able to take on all that Rachel has done in the past and we are very thankful that Lauren has agreed to lead the JAM Club, although this will be reduced to one JAM Club a month. So, we will try and help by having some joint All Age Worship or Family Worship services and, some of the other tasks that Rachel took on will be spread around the different groups/people in the church.

MINISTER continued
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As with all changes there will be a little confusion at the beginning so you will find a leaflet with this issue of Connect which will give you the dates and times of all the services until the next Connect issue. The dates will also, as usual, be in this issue of Connect.

There will be a rhythm to the joint services that you will pick up. If you have been to a joint service at the beginning of the month in one church, then it will be the same church at the end of the month. If you were at one church at the end of the month then the next Sunday, you will be at a different church. The times are easier to remember.

Change is always difficult because we just like things to remain the same but life is in a constant state of change. From birth to death we are constantly changing and experiencing changes all around us. For a while we will all be asking questions, but soon, we will have settled into the new pattern of worship services and, if not, then we will be reviewing these arrangements in Jan 2026 and changes can be made.

Remember, you can always contact your elder, any of your Session Clerks, the Church Secretary, or myself, if you are not sure about a date or service. Information will be on notice boards, social media, the website and in the weekly intimations.

Change is coming too for this Connect magazine as Val Barrie, who has been the editor since 2010, is handing over to Douglas McMillan. We thank Val for all her diligence and dedication, her technical skills and creative thinking, as well as her enthusiasm to share the good news of our church. We thank Douglas for taking this role on and offer our help and support to him as he begins this new venture.

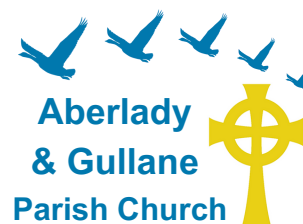
Whenever we are in the midst of change, God gives us the hope, strength and courage, to keep going and working through things. The words of a great hymn come to mind...

All my hope on God is founded,  
all my trust he will renew;  
safe through change and chance he guides me,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

God is with us guiding and supporting us through all the changes that come our way. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Easter Blessings  
from Rev Lis

Did you notice our new church logo? It was created by Kirsty Morrison. Many thanks to Kirsty.
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**PRESBYTERY LETTER**

Hello everyone,

What do cushions, watch straps, rugs, skirting boards, kitchen chairs, tablecloths, jumpers, trousers, flowers, the lawn and any food item you can think of have in common? They can all be chewed by Labrador puppies. Sadly the list previously mentioned is just a small subset of everything chewed. We had hoped the older one would help tame the worst of puppyhood in the younger one. It has worked in reverse. The older one is being egged on by the puppy to do things he had long grown out of. As we pulled something else out of the puppy's mouth last week, we were actually wondering how the breed was still here, because Labrador Retrievers are not the wisest of dogs. In our house the most common shouts just now are.... "No, Give me that." "Open your mouth." and "Oh for goodness sake, what now!" Yet we love them and they love us. We cannot stay mad at them. Anyone who has owned a dog or any pet knows this. You can rage, you can miss what's been chewed but once you allow them into your heart, that's it. We love them, often in spite of themselves.

Ever wonder if that is the way of things with God? He loves us in spite of ourselves? We know we are not perfect yet he loves us. We know our hearts often turn away from God, yet he loves us. We certainly know the church has done some very unChristian things over the years. Yet he still loves us. If, after everything humanity had done in the last 2000 years, God has not turned away from us he is not likely to do so now. He loved us yesterday, he loves us today and he will love us tomorrow.

What a great God we have!

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son and this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." John 3:16 (The Message)

May God make his love real to you in lots of different ways.

from Norman Smith, Presbytery Clerk, Lothian and Borders

**PRESBYTERY LETTER**

What a difference a day makes though? Had the email been yesterday, Pope Francis would still have been alive and this update would not have mentioned him at all. Now though, almost every paper is looking back over his life, his achievements and of course looking forward to who the next Pope is going to be. In his last encyclical Pope Francis wrote this: "I would add that the heart of Christ also frees us from another kind of dualism found in communities and pastors excessively caught up in external activities, structural reforms that have little to do with the Gospel, obsessive reorganisation plans, worldly projects, secular ways of thinking and mandatory programmes. The result is often a Christianity stripped of the tender consolations of faith, the joy of serving others, the fervour of personal commitment to mission, the beauty of knowing Christ and the profound gratitude born of the friendship he offers and the ultimate meaning he gives to our lives. This too is the expression of an illusory and disembodied otherworldliness." Thanks to Stuart Banks Kelly for sending that through, which illustrates how his faith was central to who he was.

The difference a day makes can be astonishing. If the Christian story were to stop on Holy Saturday then there would be no resurrection, no risen Christ, no hope and no future. Our faith would be in a dead guy entombed in Judea. In all honesty he would have remained anonymous, just a local carpenter who became a bit of a mystic. Sunday followed Saturday and our Lord rose; because of that day our faith is in a living Lord. This is the difference a day can make.

In your life and mine, in the lives of those we meet, what difference can the next day bring? Do we find life, joy, hope and all the things Christ promised, or do we find despair and discouragement? It would be very easy in today's world to be discouraged. Yet, as Christians, we believe there will always be a next day, whether that is in this life or the life to come. For Pope Francis, he closed his days in this world and he opened them in the next. A journey that one day we shall all take.

Remember the words of Jesus in John Chapter 14: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*

God Bless you and yours. May you find the peace that comes from resting in the arms of God this day and in all the days to come.

**What a difference a day can make.**

**He is risen!**



**PRESBYTERY LETTER****From the L&B Mission Officer**

Dear Friends

I do hope that you had a good Easter and have also found time for some days off after the festival.

This year we celebrated Easter with my son on a farm in Aberdeenshire. They currently have around 600 sheep and 50 cows on the farm. Lambing happens a little later up North than it does down here and so Easter weekend was, for us, a full-on experience of being around sheep and lambs! On their farm they try, as far as possible, to support the ewes to give birth outdoors in the fields. This involves regular and careful oversight of pregnant sheep, from first light until late evening and, of knowing when, and if, to intervene in order to help the birth. It was a fascinating experience. Some ewes didn't appear to care much about their offspring, whilst other ewes had triplets and were dedicated mothers. Caring for young ones and keeping families together was a large part of the work that weekend. My knowledge of the model of pastoral care as a shepherd was advanced and brought up to date!

Peter Wood

As we continue to pray for peace in the Middle East and for our Christian sisters & brothers in Gaza, the West Bank & Israel so we recognise that although we share one Lord & saviour we express our faith in different ways and in different languages. It was at **Pentecost** with the coming of the Holy Spirit that people started praising God in different languages. An overflowing joy that was for everyone. The power of the gospel is that it is for everyone whatever their background, their culture or education or language. When people hear the gospel in their own language they - like the folks in Jerusalem in Acts 2 - are amazed and are moved and are often prompted to ask questions.

Pentecost is a great occasion to celebrate the different ways that together we can praise our Lord as we celebrate the birthday of the church. Some people celebrate with dancing; baptising; anointing; praying together; wearing bright coloured clothes; birthday cakes; goose; picnic; BBQ...

In Italy, in some places, it is a tradition to scatter rose leaves from the ceiling of churches to recall the miracle of the fiery tongues. In France, trumpets are blown during the Mass to recall the sound "as of a driving wind,"

May the Spirit of Jesus animate and inhabit your worship wherever you are!

Peter Wood

### **Worship Team – revision of dates and services.**

The Worship Team and Moderator were tasked with sorting out dates and presenting proposals to Session. A proposal that we have two joint services per month on the first and last Sundays in the month was approved by Session. The first Sunday of the month to be led by the Worship team and the last Sunday of the month by the Minister. Considerable discussion ensued on the start time of the services and **Session agreed all joint services will be the single service worship time i.e. Gullane 09.45am and Aberlady 11.15am.** The change will be introduced in June for a trial period of six months and considerable publicity given to the changes in advance of the start date. (See page 24 for dates and times of services up to the beginning of October)

## SESSION CLERK

Session Clerk article for Connect May 2025

All our services continue to be well supported and we are grateful to Lis, who, despite being a part-time Minister, continues to work so hard on our behalf.

EJAM is back with good attendance, so thank you to all those who give their time to make this happen.

Easter was busy with a NBDAC held in Gullane on Tuesday of Holy Week, a moving Tenebrae service on Good Friday evening, a Service on the top of Gullane Hill at 8am on Easter Sunday, followed by bacon rolls in the Church Hall, and our normal services at Gullane and Aberlady.

The JAM Club had an Easter Egg hunt in Elspeth's garden after the Easter Sunday Service and again this was very well supported.

Our plans for development are moving on and we are hoping to discuss them with 7=Session in June. There are so many things which need to be taken into consideration and we are working hard to try to get the balance right.

Finally, thank you to all who serve and give their time on the various committees and also to those who make a contribution as individuals, which help to make our Church such a welcoming place.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Val Barrie who has done such a splendid job as our editor of this Magazine since 2010. Douglas McMillan will be our new editor for the August edition and we are very grateful to him for taking on this important role.

Michael Black

**Many thanks to all who have supported me as editor of the church magazine over the past fifteen years, by sending in interesting facts and articles for our church magazine. Most have been to do with God's Creation, help in the community and messages from Presbytery, the Minister and Session and others who are part of life in Aberlady and Gullane Church. The years haven't really felt so very long and it has been my joy and pleasure to prepare everything and to put the articles in some sort of order. Also, when I have been out and about, I have always been looking for opportunities to take an appropriate, seasonal and meaningful photograph for the front cover.**

**Douglas McMillan, a new member of Aberlady and Gullane Church, is taking over this year as editor, from the August issue of CONNECT and I know he will do an excellent job. I wish Douglas, his wife and their lovely girls all the best in their new life in East Lothian.**



**Congregational Roll**  
**Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church**



**Funerals and deaths**

Anne MacCallum. 11.2.25

Marion Dickson. 12.2.25

Shellie Burns 16.4.25

**Baptisms**

Flora Mary McMillan and Màiri Isobel McMillan - 4th May - Aberlady Church

**GDPR Data Protection Legislation**

The Church of Scotland Law Department has issued revised, updated Privacy Notices.

These new Privacy Notices will be issued to all congregations to maintain compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

In essence, the revised Privacy Notices seek to remind you that AGPC hold personal information about you - essentially, your name, address, telephone number and email address. This information is securely recorded and access to this information is strictly controlled. You are entitled to view the information we hold and you can so do by contacting me by email at: [white891@btinternet.com](mailto:white891@btinternet.com) or by telephone at 07974567313.

These updated Privacy Notices also explain the procedure to be followed if you have a complaint about what and how your personal data is held.

The Notices will be posted shortly on the AGPC website and you are encouraged to view them and download them. If you do not have internet access, please contact me by telephone and I will issue you with a paper copy.

**Barry White - Data Protection Officer**

**Safeguarding**

**Please note that there is now a dedicated email address for any Safeguarding issues you might need to raise.**

**Both Safeguarding Coordinators can be contacted on;**

[agpcsafeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:agpcsafeguarding@outlook.com)

**Val Morrison/Win Wright**



**TREASURER'S REPORT****Church Finances-Treasurer's update May 2025**

The last three months have been busy for me with the completion of the Annual Accounts, now audited and approved by the trustees, i.e. the Kirk Session, and now submitted to Presbytery and 121 George Street. The Annual Stated meeting took place at our joint April service to provide you with information about our Finances. I am happy to say that our financial position is very healthy both in our General account and in our Investments. We had a small surplus for the year despite some expensive repairs at both churches at the very end of the year.

I continue to be grateful for your support in your giving through your offerings. Please continue to maintain this. You can do so by cash, cheque or by Standing Order via the bank. For further information, please speak to Morag Black at Gullane, or to me at church, or by phone. Morag has been in touch by letter to Gift Aid donors about their 2024-25 donations.

I am pleased that donations in the plate at the rear of both churches, either Free Will or Open Plate are helping with our regular income. The amount donated over the first three months has increased and, as a result, we received a larger refund earlier in April from the Gift Aid Scheme. The heating costs remained high during the winter months but have reduced over the first three months this year. We hope the current warm weather continues and we all enjoy a sunny warm summer.

The Annual Plant Sale on 17 May is a joint fundraising activity which takes place on the last day of Christian Aid week. The committee hope you will support this event to boost our income and to make a generous donation to Christian Aid. The Kirk Session has agreed to give 10% of the Profit to the church's Christian Aid donation. This year it will be possible to pay by **Card** or **Cash**. There will be bedding plants, vegetable plants, herbaceous plants and shrubs all at reasonable prices. In addition, there will be Cake and Candy, jams etc, Raffle and Strawberry Cream teas. It is usually a busy and happy morning at Aberlady Village Hall.

It is likely that there will be some events later in the year as we may need to start some fundraising for the proposed work to improve all our buildings.

There is some availability for the Kirk Stables and Gullane Church Centre for regular or occasional lets. I am pleased to say that there have been more lets at both sites in the last few months. These lets help defray the cost of running these buildings.

Please contact our Secretary, Morag Black, for information or availability (either by email: [agpcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:agpcsecretary@outlook.com) or by leaving a message on the office answering machine (01875 870777))

Kaye Macaskill (Treasurer)  
30 April 2025



### **Children's Church in Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church**

Spring is always a fun time in Jam Club. Easter brings a time of celebration. We take the opportunity to enjoy the Easter Craft Afternoon, activities on Easter Sunday and other outdoor fun. Did you see the Easter Garden that the children made at the craft afternoon? It took centre stage in the Gullane Church vestibule for Easter week. It wasn't quite factually correct, but does it matter that there were four crosses and many play people in the tomb with Jesus? At least they got to talk about the story. On Easter Sunday morning we were hosted by Elspeth and Michael in their garden. Many families came to the church service then went over to the garden for an Easter egg hunt and refreshments. We were blessed on both occasions with fabulous weather. Long may that last.

Over the coming weeks we will be planting some sunflowers for our gardens and the plant sale and we will be checking out the bug hotel and maybe head out into the garden. Before we know it, it will be the end of term and time for our Jam Club picnic on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are doing some thinking about what to do after the summer. Jam Club may take a new form as I plan to step back. After nearly 10 years it's time for someone else to take the reins. If you have any ideas or wish to help, please get in touch. It has been so lovely sharing time with the youngsters in the church. I will miss it, not that I will be escaping that easily, as I will still be around, just with other priorities. I want to thank EVERYONE who has helped me. You know who you are and I couldn't have done it without you.

For more information on Aberlady and Gullane's children's activities please email [agpcchildren@gmail.com](mailto:agpcchildren@gmail.com)

Please keep in touch by checking our website for updates:

[www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.aberladygullaneparishchurch.co.uk) or

Facebook @Aberladyandgullaneparishchurch.

Rachel Wallace



## Easter Craft Afternoon



completed crafts



Val Barrie with her Easter Bunny hat



Time for something to eat







WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS –  
 LONG LIFE MILK AND FRUIT JUICE,  
 BAKED BEANS, SOUP,  
 TINNED MEAT, FISH, TOMATOES  
 TINNED SPAGHETTI, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.  
 RICE, PASTA,  
 TEA, COFFEE, CEREAL,  
 BISCUITS, SNACKS AND SWEETS.

WE ALSO TAKE TOILETRIES AND CLEANING PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS PET FOOD.

**Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church  
 are proud to support East Lothian Foodbank.**

Volunteers uplift donations for the Foodbank from Gullane and Aberlady Churches, Aberlady Community Hall, Gullane Library and Gullane COOP during opening hours. There is also a collection point at North Berwick Tesco.

All donations are taken to the warehouse in Tranent where they are sorted and made into 3-day emergency food parcels.

Parcels are delivered throughout East Lothian.

For more information see the website [www.eastlothianfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.eastlothianfoodbank.org.uk)



### **Coffee, Cake and Christianity**

This is a warm and friendly group that meets on the last Monday of each month in Aberlady to share some fellowship, refreshments and discussion about the Bible and faith. The next meeting will be on Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am. Further dates to be confirmed.

If you are interested, please contact Rev Lis 0131 324 3134 or Heather Barcroft 07513031965

### **Aberlady Conservation and History Society**

The first meeting of the new **Aberlady Conservation and History Society** is to take place in the Kirk Stables on June 14th. Look out on local notice boards for details of timing

The Society hasn't met since pre-Covid days but we are very keen to have it started again. Our main objective is to provide presentations and reading material relating to the history of Aberlady. At each monthly meeting, we will have a speaker who is an expert on a particular aspect or period in Aberlady's history. Our previous meetings were very well attended and we feel that many of the newcomers to our village will be interested in its history, as are so many of our longer-term residents.

At our opening meeting on **June 14th**, Ian Malcolm will remind us of some of the very interesting work the Society has done in the past and provide a preview of our future plans. We've agreed on **2-3pm** for the main meeting, with Ian's presentation, followed by another hour (**3-4pm**) for informal networking and to allow people to browse the exhibits we will have on display.

Alistair Forsyth

### **Aberlady Church Flowers.**

We are very grateful to the small but dedicated band of volunteers who decorate the Church with flowers every Sunday.

This can be with a simple vase of fresh flowers or a more elaborate display if desired. Sometimes a Church member wants to contribute to flowers in memory of a loved one or to make a special display by themselves.

We also have a wide variety of silk flowers which can be arranged and we use them for the months when there is no volunteer.

We are always extremely grateful to Margaret and David Chalmers for sharing their beautiful daffodils in numerous displays around the Church in Spring. This is such a special time for us all.

If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer to provide a vase of fresh flowers or to arrange a display of silk flowers for all the Sundays in one month, we would be very grateful.

You don't need to be a member of the Church or a regular attendee or indeed a floral specialist, but flowers do really help to lift our spirits and they most certainly contribute to make our Church the welcoming place it is.

Please contact Liz Forsyth: [elizabethmforsyth@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabethmforsyth@btinternet.com) 07880337695.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

In 1910 more than 400 women met for the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh) bringing their experience and wisdom, developed through years of ecumenical partnership in many countries. WDP was born. Today World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing together millions from over 100 countries to pray, worship and learn each year.

### **Through World Day of Prayer, people are encouraged:**

- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society
- to affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world

### **Scottish Committee Mission Statement**

As representatives of the churches in Scotland and members of the world-wide movement of Christian women, we work to promote prayerful living and worship for men, women and children, and to raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service.

We encourage ecumenical planning for World Day of Prayer services, facilitating them, by preparing material supportive of the annual international theme and country. We generate resources in support of Christian literature distribution and projects giving practical help to people in the writing country.

More information can be found on our website : [www.wdpscotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk) and on our facebook page: 'World Day of Prayer Scotland'.

sent by Jackie Thomas



## Harvest Thanksgiving - TWO OF THEM???

We will be having two Harvest Thanksgiving services this year, both of which will be joint services. The service at Aberlady on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11.15am will be of a traditional nature whilst the service at Gullane on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct will be an All Age Worship Service.

### All-Age Worship

All-age worship is a type of church service designed to engage and be inclusive of people of all ages. It's about creating a worship experience where everyone, regardless of age, understanding or experience, can participate and be nourished together. It's a shift from traditional services that often separate children and young people into separate groups, to a shared experience where all can worship together.

All Age Worship services provide time and space where the whole church community can spend time together learning about our faith and learning from each other. Often more relaxed and informal, a place where even mistakes and noise can be made. All Age Worship services are ideal times to be inviting friends and family members who are new to church.

### All-Age Worship is...

- An opportunity for people of all ages, understandings and experiences to come together to offer God their praise and worship.
- A time when the whole family of God can learn from each other and grow together
- Should be a part of the church's regular worship pattern.
- A concept which requires us to think what we really mean by the terms worship and family of God.
- Helps all ages to get to know one another better.

### All-Age Worship is not...

- A service for children with adults present
- An adult service with children present
- A children's performance
- A chance to sing some action songs
- An unstructured free for all
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### All-Age Worship can...

- Enable different ages to contribute to worship and learn together.
- Encourage people to see church as shared experience and recognise we need each other.
- Mark special occasions.
- Make worship more accessible to newcomers and outsiders.
- Give a break to children's group leaders.
- Provide a change.

## Planning - All ARE WELCOME

Planning the meeting is all done by all ages.

We will have a planning meeting on Aug 31<sup>st</sup> in Gullane Church Centre after the morning joint family celebration of Holy Communion. **All ARE WELCOME**



Longniddry  
roundabout

The A1

## Blindwells

Many of you will have noticed as you drive East down the A1 past Tranent that there are big signs on your left flagging major new housing developments. Local churches have been working hard at the largest of these, Blindwells, to build relations with developers and the council as well as to deliver a range of monthly activities for new residents. Having helped initiate the opening of a community portacabin, the churches believe now is the time to take the project to the next level and, with the help of 'Seeds for Growth', will get a worker in on the ground. The goal being the establishment of a new Christian community there.

The application, which is going in this week, envisages several stages to the project but with relationships with God and with others at its heart.

This is a massive undertaking for the local churches as Blindwells is planned over time to rise to be a settlement of 6000+ houses. Please pray for the core team, the application and the local churches, as they shift their mindset towards the emergence of this new place. If you want to know more, or to know how to pray or to support the work there, do get in touch.

Michael Black

## **A Crab Apple tree in the Gullane Church grounds**

### **Photos on front cover**

In January 2023 the JAM CLUB children planted a CrabApple tree (*Malus 'Evereste'*) in the Gullane Church grounds to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative.

It is a small, very pretty tree, with masses of beautiful pink/white flowers which emerge from red buds in late spring, followed by small, red-flushed, orange-yellow fruit and with dark green leaves. Come and see for yourself!

### **Did you know?**

#### **12 facts about the Crab Apple Tree:**

- 1 It is related to '*Malus domestica*' - the common eating apple.
- 2 It is believed to have originated in Kazakhstan in Central Asia.
- 3 It has sweetly scented blossom which provides an important source of early pollen for insects, particularly bees. It can support up to ninety different insect species.
- 4 Produces fruit which is eaten by birds, including blackbirds, thrushes and crows. Mammals, such as mice, voles, foxes and badgers also eat crab apple fruit.
- 5 It is a good pollination partner for cultivated apples as it produces large amounts of blossom over a long period. Crab apples are often planted in or around orchards.
- 6 It has small, bitter fruit which can be roasted and served with meat or added to ales or punches. More commonly, it is used to make crab apple jelly and is a natural source of pectin for setting jams.
- 7 The wood produces a sweet smoke which can be used for smoking fish.
- 8 It has a connection with religious beliefs. It is a symbol of fertility and is associated with love and marriage.
- 9 It's hard, pinkish wood has an even, dense texture and makes good quality timber, which is used for carving, turning, inlaying and making tools like mallets and screws. It was used for making set squares and even golf club heads!
- 10 Makes a sweetly scented, luxurious firewood.
- 11 Crab apple bark can be used to create a yellow dye, traditionally used for colouring wool and cloth in cottage industries.
- 12 Was referred to by Shakespeare in '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' and '*Love's Labour Lost*'.

Joy Grey

**THOUGHTS AFTER MOTHERING SUNDAY**

We recently celebrated Mothering Sunday and I wondered how many did make the journey back to the Church where they were Baptised. For me, that would have been impossible, as that Church is now Sheltered Housing.

Lis gave an interesting message some weeks ago on the theme that we will have to adapt if we want to survive.

At that time, I was reading an Historical Crime Novel set in Scotland in the 1600s and gave thanks that we no longer have the Cutty Stool, the Kirk Session naming and shaming of unmarried Mothers, and the drowning of Women who were basically Herbalists.

Fortunately we no longer have the Kirk Session assessing our suitability to sit at the Table of our Lord and issuing a metal disc to us if we were deemed suitable (the fore runner of the Communion Card now long abandoned).

In my lifetime I have seen adaptations and have had to adapt myself.

I have seen the appearance of Christmas Trees in the Church, unknown in my childhood. Advent Candles have also made their appearance and it is not so many years since an elderly lady said to me, "Mrs Campbell, they had Candles in the Parish Church!"

I was privileged to be a member of the first Congregation in the town to ordain a Woman Elder and have in my possession two photographs of Kirk Sessions with not a female face in sight.

My Father-in-law was Precentor in the Church in his Community on Loch Ness side and played his fiddle to accompany the singing before the 'Kist of Whistles' was accepted in Churches.

A Minister friend, who was Chaplain to the Highland Show, baptised the child of a farming family at the Show. That same Minister enabled a couple who were divers and who had asked him to marry them under water (impossible because of the practicality of signing paper), married them on board the diving vessel and they then made their dives. He also reminded a member who was complaining about the removal of some pews from the back of the Church, because he had always sat in the back row, that he would still be sitting in the back row, it would just be a bit further forward! That member managed to adapt.

Sunday School was originally set up to enable Factory and Farming Community Children who could not attend weekday school, to learn to read and write.

We are all creatures of habit. Safe in our comfort zone and perhaps too thirled to buildings.

Jesus preached at the lakeside, the Covenanters worshipped in the Pentland Hills, the early Church met in house groups.

We have had to adapt to a part time Ministry which, I think, is not always recognised and we must be careful not to demand too much from our Minister and to all those who give so much of their time and talents in our Service.

Through the years, the Church has adapted and I trust that we, as a Congregation, will adapt and go forward in Faith.

June Campbell

## The Story of the Fife Pilgrim Kingdom

For 400 years, St Andrews was one of the main pilgrimage destinations in Medieval Europe. Rich and poor flocked to be near the bones of St Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples.

St Andrews may have been the main attraction but pilgrims were also drawn to Dunfermline to visit St Margaret's miraculous shrine within the Abbey. A host of other saints were represented by churches, chapels and healing wells along the road to St Andrews. These provided perfect places to pause, as well as important destinations for local pilgrims.

Pilgrimage made a permanent mark on Fife's landscape. Many of its roads, bridges and crossing points, including the famous Queen's Ferry, were created hundreds of years ago to ease the way for the steady stream of pilgrims. Inns, chapels, and alms-houses were also built to offer a place to rest, refresh and receive medical help. Providing these facilities was considered an act of piety that helped to smooth the path to Heaven. Pilgrimage changed the face of Fife forever and earned it the nickname of the 'Pilgrim Kingdom.'

Large scale pilgrimage to Dunfermline and St Andrews had a considerable impact on Fife's economy, landscape and religious and cultural life, which were all shaped by the presence of pilgrims and the veneration of saints. It also led to the development and maintenance of a sophisticated and complex network of ferries, roads, bridges, chapels, hospitals and inns to ease the way for the pilgrims, who arrived in Fife by land and sea, to visit the national shrine.

The most famous and best recorded route to St Andrews was from the southwest, beginning at Queensferry, reputedly established by St Margaret in the late 11th century. From there, the road headed north past Scotlandwell, crossing a bridge there over the River Leven and then on to St Andrews via Markinch, Kennoway and Ceres.

Of course, it still is a recognised 'walk' today. The total distance is approximately 30 miles (48 kilometres). The walk typically takes about 2 days to complete.

For further interesting information please go to:

"The Story of Fife Pilgrim in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims"



Calling all ladies. Come along to Aberlady Village Hall on Saturday 31 May from 2 to 4pm and grab the opportunity to revamp your wardrobe at the fundraising Swish.

### What is a Swish?

The idea is that clothes you are fed up wearing but which are still good, can be given a new life in someone else's wardrobe.

In the week before the Swish you can drop off donations (suggested 3 items per person) at the small hall (times will be advertised on the Aberlady News and Views Facebook page). On the day come along and pick up 'new to you' items, enjoy a glass of prosecco, chat with friends and relax in the café area where home baking will be on offer.

A fun, sustainable, low cost way to refresh your wardrobe.

£10 entry - **proceeds to the hall renovations**

(Remember: it includes a glass of prosecco).

Arrive by 2pm please.

Heather Barcroft

### A thought for today

Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday.



**Editor: As always, many thanks to all the companies who support our joint magazine, 'CONNECT', helping to pay towards the printing costs. Val Barrie - Editor**

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Click on "CONNECT" to read the magazine online.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>May 11th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>May 11th - 17th</b>	Christian Aid Week - Gullane Church Centre 10.30am - 12 noon
<b>May 18th</b>	9.45am Sunday Worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>May 25th</b>	9.45am Celebration of Holy Communion at Gullane Church 11.15am Celebration of Holy Communion at Aberlady Church
<b>June 1st</b>	9.45am Joint worship service at Gullane conducted by the Worship team
<b>June 8th</b>	9.45am Sunday Worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>June 15th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am 'Kirkin' Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>June 22nd</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church with JAM gift presentations and JAM Club picnic after the service 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>June 29th</b>	<i>9.45am Joint worship service at Gullane Church with Rev Stenhouse</i>
<b>July 6th</b>	11.15am Joint worship service at Aberlady Church conducted by the Worship team
<b>July 13th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>July 20th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>July 27th</b>	<i>11.15am Joint worship service at Aberlady Church with Rev Stenhouse</i>
<b>July 27th</b>	<b>Final deadline for articles for August issue of 'CONNECT'.</b>
<b>August 3rd</b>	<i>9.45am Joint worship service at Gullane Church conducted by the Worship team</i>
<b>August 10th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>August 17th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church & JAM Club is on this week 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>August 24th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>August 31st</b>	9.45am Joint celebration of Holy Communion at Gullane Church conducted by Rev Stenhouse -This will be a child friendly celebration of communion and afterwards we will have planning meeting for the All Age Harvest Thanksgiving on Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>September 7th</b>	<i>11.15am Joint worship service at Aberlady Church conducted by the Worship team</i>
<b>September 14th</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church & JAM Club is on this week 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>September 21st</b>	9.45am Sunday worship at Gullane Church 11.15am Sunday worship at Aberlady Church
<b>September 28th</b>	11.15am Harvest Thanksgiving service at Aberlady Church conducted by Rev Stenhouse
<b>October 5th</b>	9.45am Joint All Age Harvest Thanksgiving service at Gullane Church conducted by the Worship team